

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 are pending.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to correct typographical errors and not in response to the cited references.

DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) for inconsistent reference numeral usage. Proposed corrections and formal drawings are included in this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

SPECIFICATION

The specification was objected to for various informalities. The informalities identified in the Office Action have been corrected by this amendment. The specification has also been amended to be consistent with the amendments to the drawings. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTION – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,249,527 issued to Verthein, et al. (*Verthein*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,222 issued to Pounds, et al. (*Pounds*). Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 4, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1-3 were allowed. Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-4 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.


Application No. 09/546,976
Amendment dated December 31, 2004
Response to Office Action of August 29, 2003

Atty. Docket No. 42390.P9093X
Examiner William C. Schultz
TC/A.U. 2664

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Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: Dec 31, 2004


Paul A. Mendonsa
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,879

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 439-8778

Attachments

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Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

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Signature Date

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Appendix: Drawings

